THE PETITION OF The Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament.

Presented to his Majestie at Beverley *the sixteenth of July*, 1642.

With His Majesties Answer thereunto.

¶ By the King.

Our expresse pleasure is, That this Our Answer be read and published throughout all Churches and Chappels of the Kingdom of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*,

By the severall Parsons, Vicars, or Curats of the same.

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THE HVMBLE PETITION

Of the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament: Presented to His MAJESTIE at *Beverley* the 16 of *Iuly*, 1642.

May it please your MAIESTIE.

ALthough we, Your Majesties most humble and faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, have been very unhappy in many former Petitions and Supplications to your Majestie, wherein we have represented our most dutifull Affections, in advising and desiring those things which we held most necessary for the preservation of Gods true Religion, Your Majesties safety & Honour, and the peace of the Kingdom; And with much sorrow do perceive, That Your Majestie, incensed by many false Calumnies and Slanders, doth continue to raise Forces against us, and Your other peaceable and loyall Subjects, and to make great preparations for War, both in the Kingdom, and from beyond the Seas; And by Arms and Violence to overrule the Judgement and Advice of Your great Councell;

and by force to determine the Queſtions there depending, concerning the Government and Liberty of the Kingdom: Yet ſuch is our earneſt deſire of diſcharging our duty to Your Majeſtie and the Kingdom, to preſerve the peace thereof, and to prevent the miſeries of Civill War amongſt Your Subjects; That notwithſtanding we hold our ſelves bound to uſe all the means and power, which by the Laws and Conſtitutions of this Kingdom we are truſted with for defence and protection thereof, and of the Subjects from force and violence; We doe in this our humble and loyall Petition proſtrate our ſelves at Your Majeſties feet; beſeeching your Royall Majeſtie, That you will be pleaſed to forbear, and remove all Preparations and Actions of War, particularly, the Forces from about Hull, *from* Newcaſtle, Tynmouth, Lincoln, *and* Lincolnſhire, *and all other places; And that Your Majeſtie will recall the Commiſſions of Array, which are illegall; Diſmiſſe Troops, and extraordinary Guards by You raiſed; That Your Majeſtie will come neerer to your Parliament, and hearken to their faithfull Advice and humble Petitions, which ſhall onely tend to the defence and advancement of Religion, Your own Royall Honour and ſafety, the preſervation of Our Laws and Liberties: And we have been, and ſhall ever be carefull to prevent and puniſh all Tumults, and ſeditious Actions, Speeches, and Writings,*

which

which may give Your Majestie just cause of distaste or apprehension of danger; from which publike Aymes and Resolutions, no sinister or private respect shall ever make us to decline: that Your Majesty will leave Delinquents to the due course of Iustice; And that nothing done or spoken in Parliament, or by any Person in pursuance of the Command and Direction of both Houses of Parliamẽt, be questioned any where but in Parliament.

And we, for our parts shall be ready to lay down all those preparations which we have been forced to make for our defence. And for the Town of Hull, *and the Ordinance concerning the* Militia; *As we have in both these Particulars, onely sought the preservation and peace of the Kingdom, and the defence of the Parliament from force and violence, so we shall most willingly leave the Town of* Hull *in the state it was before* Sir John Hotham *drew any forces into it; delivering Your Majesties Magazine into the Tower of* London, *and supplying whatsoever hath been disposed by us for the service of the Kingdom: We shall be ready to settle the* Militia *by a Bill, in such a way as shall be Honourable and safe for Your Majestie, most agreeable to the Duty of Parliament, and effectuall for the good of the Kingdom; that the strength thereof be not imployed against it self; and that which ought to be for our security, applyed to our destruction: And that the Parliament, and those*

who profeſſe and deſire ſtill to preſerve the Proteſtant Religion, both in this Realm and in Ireland, *may not be left naked, and indefenſible to the miſchievous deſignes, and cruell attempts of thoſe who are the profeſt and confederated enemies thereof, in Your Majeſties Dominions, and other neighbour-Nations. To which, if Your Majeſties Courſes and Counſels ſhall from henceforth concur, We doubt not but we ſhall quickly make it appear to the World, by the moſt eminent effects of Love and Duty, That Your Majeſties perſonall ſafety, Your Royall Honour and Greatneſſe are much dearer to us then our own Lives and Fortunes; which we doe moſt heartily Dedicate, and ſhall moſt willingly imploy for the ſupport and maintenance thereof.*

HIS

HIS

MAIESTIES

ANSWER.

To the aforeſaid PETITION.

THough His Majeſtie had no great reaſon to beleeve, That the directions ſent to the Earle of *Warwick*, to go to the River of *Humber*, with as many Ships as he ſhould think fit, for all poſſible aſſiſtance to Sir *Iohn Hotham*; (whil'ſt His Majeſtie expected the giving up of the Towne unto Him) and to carry away ſuch Arms from thence, as his diſcretion thought fit to ſpare out of His Majeſties owne Magazine; The chuſing a generall by both Houſes of Parliament, for the Defence of thoſe who have obeyed their Orders and Commands (be they never ſo extravagant and illegall,) Their Declaration, That in that Caſe, they would

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Live and Dye with the Earle of Eſſex their Generall; (all which were Voted the ſame day with this Petition) and the Committing the Lord Major of London to Priſon, for executing His Majeſties Writs and Lawfull Commands, were but ill Prologues to a Petition which might Compoſe the miſerable Diſtractions of the Kingdom; Yet, His Majeſties paſsionate deſire of the Peace of the Kingdom, together with the Preface of the Preſenters, That they had brought a Petition full of Duty and Submiſſion to His Majeſtie, and which deſired nothing of Him, but His Conſent to Peace, (which His Majeſtie conceived to be the Language of both Houſes too) begot a greedy hope and expectation in Him, That this Petition, would have been ſuch an Introduction to Peace, that it would at leaſt have ſatisfied His Meſſage of the eleventh of this Moneth, by deliveting up *Hull* unto His Majeſtie. But to His unſpeakable grief, his Majeſtie hath too much cauſe to beleeve, That the end of ſome perſons, by this Petition, is not in truth to give any reall ſatisfaction to His Majeſtie; but by the ſpecious pretences of making offers to Him, to Miſ-lead, & Seduce His People, and lay ſome imputation upon Him, of denying what is fit to be granted; otherwiſe, it would not have thrown thoſe unjuſt Reproaches

proaches and Scandalls upon His Majeſtie, for making neceſſary and juſt Defence for His own Safety, & ſo peremptorily juſtified ſuch Actions againſt Him, as, by no rule of Law or Juſtice, can admit the leaſt colour of defence; & after ſo many free & unlimited Acts of Grace paſſed by His Majeſtie, without any Condition, have propoſed ſuch things, which in Juſtice cannot be denyed to Him, upon ſuch Conditions, as, in Honour, He cannot Grant. However, that all the world may ſee how willing His Majeſtie would be to embrace any overture, that might beget a right underſtanding between Him and His two Houſes of Parliament, (with whom He is ſure He ſhall have no contention, when the private practices, & ſubtill inſinuations of ſome few Malignant Perſons ſhall be diſcovered, which His Majeſtie will take care, ſhall be ſpeedily don) He hath with great care weighed the particulars of this Petition, and returnes this Anſwer.

That the Petitioners were never unhappy in their Petitions or Supplications to His Majeſtie, whileſt they deſired any thing which was neceſſary or convenient for the preſervation of Gods true Religion, His Majeſties ſafety & honour, and the Peace of the Kingdom; and therefore when thoſe generall envious foundations are laid, His Majeſtie

could with ſome particular inſtances had been applyed. Let Envie and Malice object one particular Propoſition for the preſervation of Gods true Religion, which His *Majeſtie* hath refuſed to conſent to; what Himſelf hath often made for the eaſe of tender Conſciences, & for the Advancement of the Proteſtant Religion, is notorious by many of His *Meſſages*, and Declarations; what regard hath been to His honour and ſafety, when He hath been driven from ſome of His Houſes, and kept from other of His Towns by Force; and what care there hath been of the peace of the Kingdom when endeavour hath been uſed to put all His Subjects in Arms againſt *Him*, is ſo evident, that *His Majeſtie* is confident, *He* cannot ſuffer by thoſe generall imputations: 'Tis enough that the world knows what *He* hath granted, and what *He* hath denyed.

For His *Majeſties* rayſing Forces, and making preparations for War, (whatſoever the Petitioners, by the ill Acts of the Enemies to his *Majeſties* Perſon and Government, and by the calumnies & ſlanders raiſed againſt His *Majeſtie* by them, are induced to beleeve) all men may know, what is done that way is but in Order to His own Defence. Let the Petitioners remember, That (which all the world knows) His *Majeſtie* was driven from His Palace

Palace of *Whitehall* for ſafety of His Life; That both *Houſes* of Parliament, upon their own Authority, rayſed a Guard to themſelves, (having gotten the Command of all the Train-bands of *London* to that purpoſe) without the leaſt colour or ſhadow of Danger; That they uſurped a Power, by their pretented Ordinance, (againſt all principles and elements of Law) over the whole *Militia* of the Kingdom, without and againſt *His Majeſties* Conſent; That they tooke Poſſeſſion of *His* Town, Fort, and Magazine of *Hull*, and committed the ſame to Sir *John Hotham*, who ſhut the Gates againſt *His Majeſtie*; and by force of Arms, denyed entrance thither to *His* own Perſon; That they juſtified this Act, which they had not directed, and took Sir *Iohn Hotham* into their protection for whatſoever he had done, or ſhould do againſt His *Majeſtie*; And all this whilſt His *Majeſtie* had no other attendance, then *His* own meniall Servants: Upon this, the duty and affection of this County prompted His Subjects here to provide a ſmall Guard for *His* own Perſon; which was no ſooner done, but a Vote ſuddenly paſſed of His *Majeſties* intention to levie War againſt his Parliament (which God knows *His* heart abhorreth) & notwithſtanding, all His *Majeſties* Profeſſions, Declarations, and Pro-

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teſtations to the contrary, ſeconded by the cleer Teſtimony of ſo great a number of Peers upon the place, Propoſitions and Orders for levies of *Men*, *Horſe*, and Arms were ſent throughout the Kingdom; Plate, and Money brought in, and received; *Horſe*, & Men raiſed towards an Army, muſtered, and under Command; and all this contrary to the Law, and to His Majeſties Proclamation: And a Declaration publiſhed, That if He ſhould uſe force for the recovery of *Hull*, or ſuppreſsing the pretended Ordinance for the *Militia*, it ſhould be held levying War againſt the Parliament; and all this done before His Majeſtie granted any Commiſsion, for the levying, or raiſing a Man: His Majeſties Ships were taken from Him, & committed to the cuſtody of the Earle of *Warwick*, who preſumes, under that Power, to uſurp to himſelfe the Soveraignty of the Sea; to chaſe, fright, & impriſon ſuch of His Majeſties good Subjects as deſire to obey his lawfull Commands, although he had notice of the legall Revocation of the Earle of *Northumberlands* Commiſsion of Admirall, whereby all Power derived from that Commiſsion ceaſed. Let all the world now judge who began this War, and upon whoſe account the miſeries which may follow muſt be caſt, what his Majeſtie could have done

leſſe

leſſe then *He* hath done, and whether He were not compelled to make proviſion, both for the Defence of Himſelf, and recovery of what is ſo violently, & injuriouſly taken from *Him*, & whether theſe Injuries, and Indignities are not juſt grounds for His Majeſties Fears, and Apprehenſions of further Miſchief & danger to Him: Whence the Feares & Jealouſies of the Petitioners have proceeded, hath never been diſcovered, the dangers they have brought upon His good Subjects are too evident; what thoſe are they have prevented, no man knows: And therefore His Majeſtie cannot but look upon that charge, as the boldeſt, and the moſt ſcandalous hath been yet laid upon *Him*, That this neceſſary proviſion, made for *His* own Safety and Defence, is to over-rule the Iudgement and advice of *His* great Councell, and by force to determine the queſtions there depending, concerning the Government and Liberty of the Kingdom: If no other force had been raiſed, to determine thoſe queſtions then by *His* Majeſtie, this unhappy miſ-underſtanding had not been: And His Majeſtie no longer deſires the bleſſing, and protection of Almighty God upon Himſelf, and His Poſterity, then He and they ſhall ſolemnly obſerve the due execution of the Laws, in the defence of Parliaments, and the juſt freedome thereof.

For the Forces about *Hull*, His Majeſtie will remove them, when He hath attained the end for which they were brought thither; when *Hull* ſhall be reduced again to His ſubjection, He will no longer have an Army before it; And when He ſhall be aſſured, That the ſame neceſsity, and pretence of publique good, which took *Hull* from Him, may not put a Garriſon into *Newcaſtle*, to keep the ſame againſt Him, He will remove His from thence, & from *Tinmouth*; till when the example of *Hull* will not out of His memory.

For the Commiſsions of Array, which are legall, and are ſo proved by a Declaration now in the Preſſe, His Majeſtie wonders why they ſhould at this time be thought grievous, and fit to be recalled: If the feares of Invaſion and Rebellion be ſo great, that by an illegall pretended Ordinance 'tis neceſſary to put His Subjects into a poſture of defence, to Array, Train, and Muſter them, He knows not why the ſame ſhould not be don in a Regular, Known, Lawfull way; but if in the execution of that Commiſsion any thing ſhall be unlawfully impoſed upon His Subjects, His Majeſtie will take all juſt and neceſſary care for their redreſſe.

For His Majeſties coming neerer to *His* Parliament, His Majeſtie hath expreſſed Himſelf ſo fully in His ſeverall Meſſages, Anſwers, and Declarations

ons, and ſo particularly avowed a reall fear of His ſafety, upon ſuch inſtances as cannot be anſwered, that He hath reaſon to take Himſelf ſomewhat neglected, That ſince upon ſo manifeſt reaſons, 'tis not ſafe for His Majeſtie to come to them, both His Houſes of Parliament will not come neerer to His Majeſtie, or to ſuch a Place, where the Freedom and dignity of Parliament might be preſerved. However His Majeſtie ſhall be very glad to heare of ſome ſuch example in their puniſhing the Tumults, (which He knows not how to expect, when they have declared that they knew not of any Tumults, though the Houſe of Peers deſired, both for the Dignity and Freedom of Parliament, that the Houſe of Commons would joyn with them in a Declaration againſt Tumults) which they refuſed (that is, neglected to do) and other ſeditious Actions, Speeches, and Writings, as may take that apprehenſion of danger from Him: Though, when He remembers the particular complaints Himſelf hath made of buſineſſes of that nature, and that inſtead of enquiring out the Authors neglect of examination hath been, when offer hath been made to both Houſes to produce the Authors, (as in that treaſonable Paper concerning the *Militia*) and when he ſees every day Pamphlets publiſhed

ſhed againſt His Crown, and againſt Monarchy it ſelf, as the Obſervations upon His late Meſſages, Declarations, and Expreſſions, and ſome Declarations of their own, which give too great encouragement in that Argument to ill-affected perſons; His Majeſtie cannot with confidence entertain thoſe hopes which would be moſt welcome to Him.

For the leaving Delinquents to the due courſe of Juſtice, His Majeſtie is moſt aſſured He hath been no ſhelter to any ſuch; if the tediouſneſſe and delay in proſecution, the vaſt charge in Officers Fees, the keeping men under a generall Accuſation without tryall a whole yeer and more, & ſo allowing them no way for their defence and vindication, have frighted men away from ſo chargeable & uncertain an attendance, the remedy is beſt provided where the diſeaſe grew. If the Law be the meaſure of Delinquency, none ſuch are within His Majeſties protection: But, if by Delinquents ſuch are underſtood who are made ſo by Vote, without any treſpaſſe upon any known or eſtabliſhed Law; If by Delinquents thoſe nine Lords are underſtood, who are made Delinquents for obeying His Majeſties Summons to come to Him, after their ſtay there was neither ſafe nor honourable, by reaſon of the Tumults

mults and other Violences, and whose impeachment, He is confident, is the greatest breach of Priviledge that, before this Parliament, was ever offered to the House of Peers; If by delinquents such are understood, who refuse to submit to the pretended Ordinance of the *Militia*, to that of the Navy; or to any other which His Majestie hath not cõsented to; Such, who for the peace of the Kingdom, in an humble manner, prepare Petitions to him, or to both Houses, as his good Subjects of *London* and *Kent* did, whilest seditious ones, as that of *Essex* & other places are allowed and cherished; If by Delinquents such are understood, who are called so, for publishing his Proclamations (as the Lord Major of *London*) or for reading his Messages and Declarations (as divers Ministers about *London* and elsewhere) when those against him are dispersed with all Care and Industry, to poyson and corrupt the loyalty and affection of his people; If by Delinquents such are understood, who have, or shall lend His Majestie money in the Universities, or in any other places; his Majesties declares to all the world that He will protect such with His utmost power and strength, and directs, That in these Cases they submit not to any Messengers or Warrants, it being no lesse His duty to protect those who are inno-

cent, then to bring the guilty to condigne punishment; of both which the Law is to be judge: And if both Houses do think fit to make a Generall, and to raise an Army for defence of those who obey their Orders and Commands, His Majestie must not sit still, and suffer such who submit to His just power, and are solicitous for the Laws of the Land, to perish and be undone, because they are called Delinquents. And when they shall take upon them to dispence with the attendance of those who are called by his Majesties Writ, whilst they send them to Sea to rob his Majestie of His Ships, or into the severall Counties to put his Subjects in Arms against him; his Majestie (who onely hath it) will not lose the power to dispence with them to attend his own person, or to execute such Offices as are necessary for the preservation of Himself and the Kingdom, but must protect them, though they are called Delinquents.

For the manner of the proceeding against Delinquents, His Majestie will proceed against those who have no Priviledge of Parliament, or in such Cases where no priviledge is to be allowed, as He shall be advised by his learned Councell, and according to the known and unquestionable rules of the Law; it being unreasonable, that He should be

compelled

compelled to proceed againſt thoſe who have violated the known and undoubted Law onely before them who have directed ſuch violation.

Having ſaid thus much to the particulars of the Petition, though his Majeſtie hath reaſon to complain, That ſince the ſending this Petition, they have beaten their Drums for Souldiers againſt him, armed their new Generall with a Power deſtructive to the Law and liberty of the Subjects, & choſen a Generall of their Horſe; His Majeſtie, out of His Princely Love, Tenderneſſe, and Compaſſion of his People, and deſire to preſerve the peace of the Kingdom, that the whole force and ſtrength of it may be united for the defence of it ſelf, and the relief of *Ireland*, (in whoſe behalf he conjures both his Houſes of Parliament, as they will anſwer the contrary to Almighty God, his Majeſtie, to thoſe that truſt them, and to that bleeding miſerable Kingdom, that they ſuffer not any Monies granted and collected by Act of Parliament to be diverted, or imployed againſt his Majeſtie, whileſt his Souldiers in that Kingdom, are ready to mutiny or periſh for want of pay, and the barbarous Rebels prevail by that encouragement) is graciouſly pleaſed once more, to propoſe and require.

That His Town of *Hull* be immediatly delive-

red up to him; which being done (though His Majeſtie hath been provoked by unheard of Inſolencies of Sir *Iohn Hotham*, ſince his burning, & drowning the Countrey, in ſeizing His Wine and other Proviſions for His houſe, and ſcornfully uſeing His Servant, whom He ſent to require them, ſaying, *It came to him by Providence, and he will keep it*; and ſo refuſing to deliver it, with threats, if he or any other of his Fellow-ſervants ſhould again repair to *Hull* about it; and in taking and detaining Priſoners divers Gentlemen, and others, in their paſſage over the *Humber* into *Lincolnſhire* about their neceſſary occaſions, and ſuch other Jndignities, (as all Gentlemen muſt reſent in His Majeſties behalf) his Majeſtie, to ſhew his earneſt deſire of Peace (for which He wil diſpenſe with his own honour) and how far He is from deſire of Revenge, will grant a free and generall Pardon to all perſons within that Town.

That His Majeſties Magazine taken from *Hull*, be forthwith put into ſuch hands as he ſhall appoint.

That His Navy be forthwith delivered into ſuch hands as He hath directed for the government thereof, the detaining thereof after His Majeſties directions publiſhed and received to the contrary,

and

and imploying His Ships againſt Him in ſuch manner as they are now uſed, being notorious High Treaſon in the Commanders of thoſe Ships.

That all Arms, Levies, and Proviſions for a War, made by the Conſent of both *Houſes* (by whoſe example *His* Majeſtie hath been forced to make ſome preparations) be immediately laid down, and the pretended Ordinance for the *Militia*, and all power of impoſing Laws upon the Subject, without His Majeſties conſent be diſavowed, without which, the ſame pretence will remain to produce the ſame miſchiefs; all which *His* Majeſtie may as lawfully demand, as to live; and can with no more Juſtice be denyed Him, then his Life may be taken from Him.

Theſe being done, and the Parliament adjourned to a ſafe and ſecure place, *His* Majeſtie promiſes in the preſence of God, and binds Himſelf, by all his confidence & aſſurance in the affection of His people, that *He* will inſtantly, and moſt cheerfully, lay down all the force He ſhall have raiſed, and diſcharge all His future and intended Levies, that there may be a generall face of Peace over the whole Kingdom, and will repaire to them; And deſires that all differences may be freely debated in a Parliamentary way, whereby the Law may re-

cover its due reverence, the Subject, his juſt Liberty, and Parliaments themſelves, their full vigour and eſtimation; and ſo the whole Kingdom a bleſſed Peace, Quiet, and Proſperity.

If theſe Propoſitions ſhall be rejected, His Majeſtie doubts not of the protection and aſſiſtance of Almighty God, and the ready concurrence of His good Subjects, who can have no hope left them of enjoying their own long, if their King may be oppreſſed, and ſpoyled, and muſt be remedileſſe. And though His Towns, His Ships, His Arms, and His Money be gotten and taken from Him, He hath a good Cauſe left, and the hearts of *His* People, which, with Gods bleſsing, *He* doubts not, will recover all the reſt.

Laſtly, if the preſervation of the Proteſtant Religion, the defence of the Liberty and Law of the Kingdom, the Dignity and freedom of Parliament, and the Recoverie and the Relief of bleeding and miſerable *Ireland* be equally precious to the Petitioners, as they are to His Majeſtie (who will have no quarrell but in defence of theſe) there will be a cheerfull and ſpeedy conſent to what His Majeſtie hath now propoſed and deſired.

And of this, His Majeſtie expects a full and poſitive Anſwer, by Wedneſday the 27, of this inſtant

July:

July: till when He will not make any attempt of force upon *Hull*; hoping in the Affection, Duty, and Loyalty of the Petitioners; And in the mean time expects, That no supply of Men be put into *Hull*, or any of His Majesties goods taken from thence.

FINIS.